

# Sharing the Good Times



Utah's economy continues growing at a strong pace. Employment growth of 4.8 percent for June keeps Utah's economy among one of the country's best. Not only are all industry sectors growing, but all of the state's geographic regions are also sharing in the good times.

Arguably the most robust region in the state right now is the Uintah Basin, growing by 14 percent and energized by its oil and gas industry. Both Uintah and Duchesne counties are seeing a boom that rivals the rapid employment growth that went along with their last energy boom in the 1970s. The employment gains are trickling down into other industries as well. Construction jobs are on the rise. The need to move more goods and raw materials has produced an increase in trucking jobs. Increasing population in the area is pushing up retail jobs and generating more employment in the financial sector due to increased transactions.

Then there is Washington County and the southwest corner of the state. Recently, the St. George area was measured as the country's fastest-growing metropolitan economy, based upon employment growth. A June growth rate of 8.5 percent probably does nothing to drop St. George from that position. Prosperity is not just limited to Washington County. Iron County to the north, centered around Cedar City, added 7.9 percent more jobs over the past year. And Kane County bested that with a 12 percent year-over employment growth rate.

The mountainous counties of Summit and Wasatch, east of Salt Lake City and Provo, are experiencing high employment growth percentages—measuring 12.2 and 13.0 percent respectively. Population growth is spurring construction growth in both counties. More people are also supporting more retail trade outlets. In Summit County the leisure and hospitality industry is also doing well, with employment gains in both lodging establishments and restaurants.

Even normally tranquil southeastern Utah is springing to life. Both Emery and San Juan counties have a long history of being less-than-stellar economies.

But currently, employment is growing at 9.3 and 3.6 percent respectively. In Emery, new mining, construction, utility, and trucking jobs are fueling the economy. Carbon County, which can also have long periods of economic stagnation, is thriving, growing by 8.6 percent. Here it's mining,

construction, trucking, and retail trade that are adding new jobs.

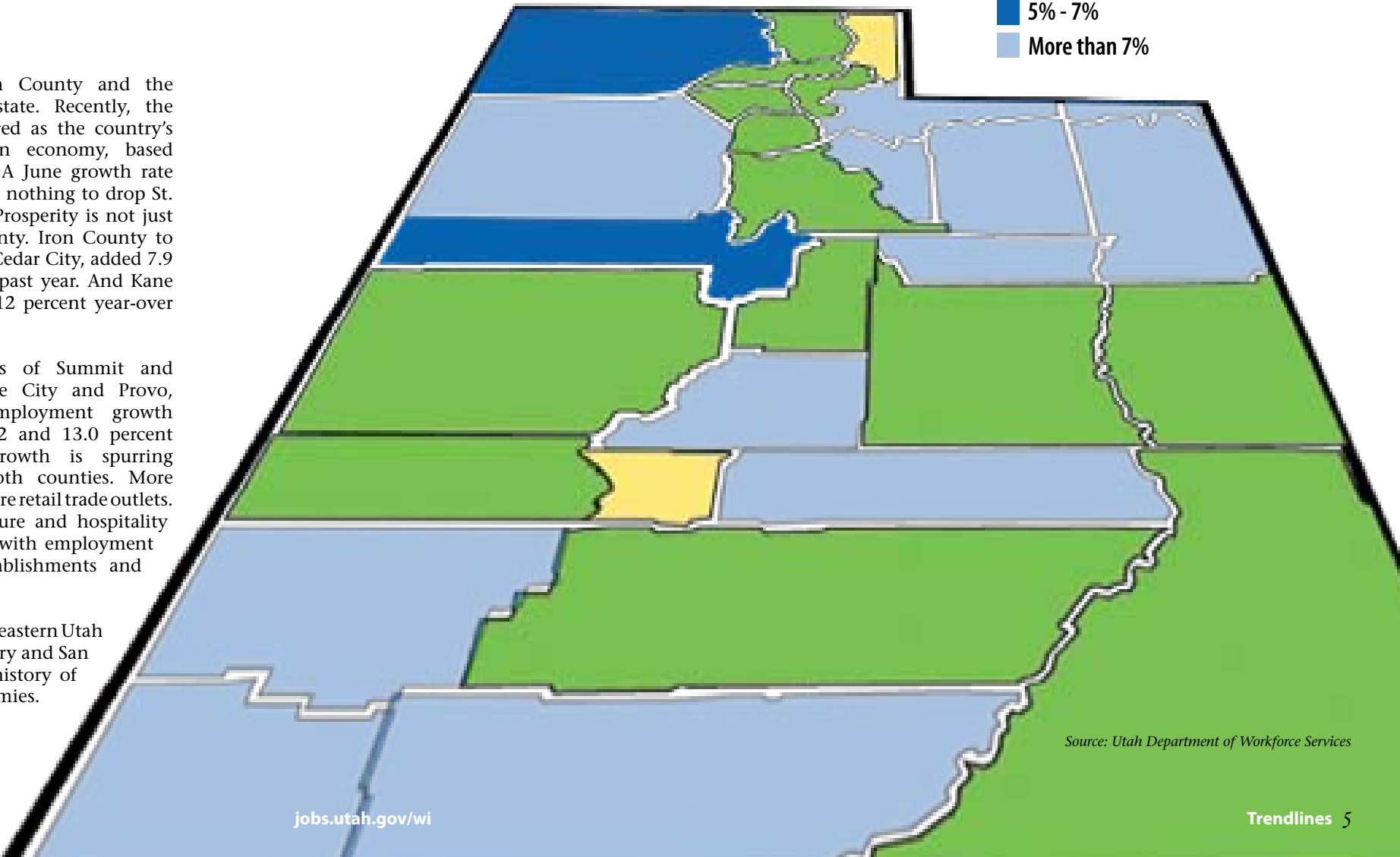
To follow the latest economic events: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/press/tlextra/tlextracurrent.asp>

- People moving from California, many of them Hispanic, are fueling Utah's population growth. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640197735,00.html>
- Utah saw a lot more "action!" from its film industry during the most recent fiscal year. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640194879,00.html>
- A suburban housing boom likely is fueling construction and new projects in Salt Lake City. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640197741,00.html>
- Wasatch Front home prices continued to soar in this year's second quarter. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640196432,00.html>

## Employment Growth

by County • June 2006

- Less than 2%
- 2% - 5%
- 5% - 7%
- More than 7%



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services